

“For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the Trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:” 1 Thessalonians 4:16 KJV



You've anticipated the moment; been away for a long time; and now, you are finally returning home to your fiancé! You've imagined the sight of her over and over in your mind as you decide what to say; whether to hug, kiss, or just touch the special one to whom your heart is knit. The joy of the moment is sweetened by the long separation that preceded it; the moment enhanced by knowing you'll never again be parted! Imagine how God must feel anticipating when His Bride will join Him! The Bride He gave His own life to redeem from certain destruction! *“The Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout,”* when He comes for His dear children, to rescue them from the *“wrath to come.”* We will meet Him *“in the air.”* Oh what a glorious day that will be; the host of the Redeemed rising to meet their Redeemer face to face as the dumbfounded unbelievers watch in unbelief still trying to form some human rationale for what they see! (I believe we will change in a *“twinkling”* [1 Cor. 15:51-52 & 1 Jn. 3:1-3] of an eye right in front of all those who persecuted and called us liars, but I don't believe we will rise in a *“twinkling.”* I believe we will rise as majestically as Christ at His ascension until the clouds receive us out of their sight. Then Satan's henchmen and demons will propagate the *“strong delusion”* that God has prepared for them to believe that they all might be damned in their unbelief! [See 2 Thes. 2:7-12) Having heard His Voice and sensed His presence many times on earth, to be finally united face to face, will be *“Joy unspeakable and full of Glory!”* As the chorus of greeting from the Redeemed swells to fill the universe, the angels of Glory will stand quietly observing, for angels, having never been lost, will never know the joy of our salvation. It is a moment that only belongs to lovers. *“And so shall we ever be with the Lord.”* Will we be looking back longingly at earthly possessions, or will we *“count them but dung that we may win Christ?”* Will we be caught off-guard or be *“watching and waiting?”* How many will we leave behind, because we were too afraid of rejection and persecution to speak the Truth? There WILL be weeping in heaven. We're told, *“God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”* What will cause your tears? A loved one? Friend? An enemy not warned? A private sin? We *“are ambassadors for Christ.”* We offer the Word of Pardon to *“whosoever shall call.”* Don't even leave your enemies behind!

A shout will herald His return,
The hearts within His saints will burn;
Anticipating Joy for aye,
They'll rise to meet Him in the sky! ~CGP

Believer's responsibility is to turn enemies to family with the Gospel. *“For it is the Power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith. Faith cometh by...the Word of God. How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of Peace!”* No amount of meditation or imagination will ever truly prepare the faithful for that rendezvous for it will exceed our wildest dreams and hopes forever!

“For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the Trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord IN THE AIR: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 KJV